



U.S. Army Fort George G. Meade
Military Munitions Response Program
Former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area
Proposed Plan Fact Sheet



OVERVIEW

The U.S. Army at Fort George G. Meade (Army) invites the community to comment on the proposed remedy for the former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area as summarized in a recently released Proposed Plan. This fact sheet summarizes the investigations performed by the Army, the alternatives considered to address the site, and the preferred alternative. This fact sheet also provides information on how you can submit your comments.

LOCATION & HISTORY OF SITE

The former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area (site) was a range and training area located in the west-central portion of Fort Meade (see map on back). The site includes 322 acres. Based on munitions debris found at the site, it is believed the site was used into the 1940s. The former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area has been divided into two munitions response sites: the Mortar Area and the Training Area.

The majority of the site has been used as a golf course since 1956. A jogging trail was along the western edge of the golf course. The northwestern portion of the site is Department of Defense property and is developed with buildings and associated paved surfaces. In early 2012, the Department of Defense began construction of additional buildings on the site.

COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED

The Army conducted a thorough remedial investigation of the site to determine if any risk posed by munitions and explosives of concern needs to be addressed. The studies conducted by the Army included reviewing historical records, a geophysical investigation, an intrusive investigation, and soil sampling.

The geophysical investigation identified 6,228 anomalies; 1,805 were identified as cultural features such as buried utilities. The remaining 4,423 anomalies were evaluated and 1,333 were hand dug during the intrusive investigation. The majority were found to be metal items such as horseshoes and nails.

The investigation found no munitions and explosives of concern during the investigation (except for small arms ammunition which do not present a unique explosive hazard). Munitions debris such as practice, training, and discarded items were found.

Based on the results of the remedial investigation, it was determined that the probability for humans to encounter munitions and explosives of concern is low.

A human health risk assessment and a screening level environmental risk assessment found no unacceptable risk exists for munition constituents in soil at the site.

RESPONSE ALTERNATIVES EXAMINED

The Army conducted a detailed analysis of various options and associated costs for controlling and minimizing the potential for contact with possible munitions and explosives of concern at the surface and within the sub-surface of the site.

Alternative 1: No Action. The law requires the Army evaluate taking no action to establish a baseline for comparison with other alternatives. **Cost: \$0.**

Alternative 2: Land Use Controls with Long-Term Monitoring. Institutional controls and engineering controls would be maintained and enhanced. The land use controls would be incorporated into the master plan and included in the Installation Geographical Information System. This requirement would be enhanced by requiring ordnance construction support for all ground-breaking activities occurring on the site. Residential land use at the site will be prohibited. An education program would be initiated for future users of the site. Signage describing site restrictions would be installed. Annual inspections would be conducted, including a surface sweep to ensure no munitions or munitions debris have been exposed. The required five-year review process would evaluate whether the remedy remains protective. **Cost: \$339,800.**

Alternative 3: Surface and Subsurface Clearance with Land Use Controls and Long-Term Monitoring. This alternative would involve surveying the site to locate anomalies which may be munitions or munition debris. The anomalies could also be metal waste. The anomalies would then be hand dug and removed for appropriate disposal. The Land Use Controls and Long-Term Monitoring described in Alternative 2 would also be in place. **Cost: \$6,911,000.**

ALTERNATIVES EVALUATED AGAINST CRITERIA

As required by law, the Army evaluated the above alternatives against nine criteria. The criteria are:

1. Overall protection of human health and the environment
2. Compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements
3. Long-term effectiveness and permanence
4. Reduction of toxicity, mobility, and volume
5. Short-term effectiveness
6. Implementability
7. Cost
8. State acceptance
9. Community acceptance

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE SELECTED

The Army's preferred alternative is Alternative 2, Land Use Controls with Long-Term Monitoring. This alternative offers a sustainable solution to controlling the risk from potential munitions. It meets the most important criteria of being protective of human health and the environment. Alternative 2 is a cost effective solution and an implementable strategy given the current and future site use and anticipated risk.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

The Army, in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland Department of the Environment, can change the preferred alternatives based on public comments. The Army encourages interested citizens to review and comment on the proposed action.

The Proposed Plan is available online at www.ftmeade.army.mil/environment (click Clean-up Program, Program Sites, and Former Mortar Range).

The Proposed Plan, as well as the full Administrative Record, also can be viewed at:

Fort Meade Environmental Division Office

239 Chisholm Avenue
Fort Meade, MD 20755-7068
(301) 677-9648

Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Monday—Friday)
(photo I.D. required to gain access onto Fort Meade)

Anne Arundel County Library

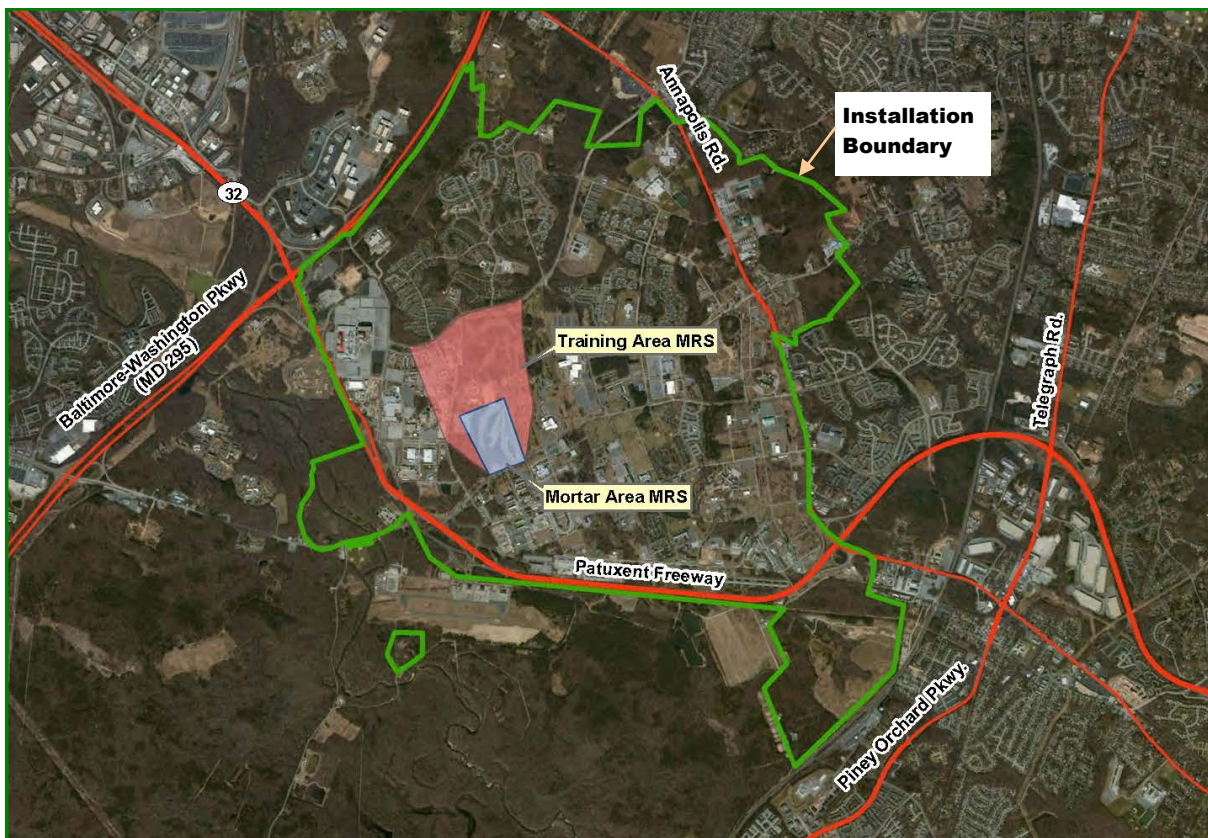
West County Area Branch

1325 Annapolis Road
Odenton, MD 21113
(410) 222-6277

Hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Friday and Saturday)
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Sunday)

The 30-day public comment period on the proposed action extends from July 19 to August 18, 2012. Written comments, postmarked by August 18, can be mailed to the address below or sent by email:

Ms. Mary Doyle
US Army Garrison Public Affairs Office
4409 Llewellyn Avenue
Fort Meade, MD 20755-7058
mary.l.doyle.civ@mail.mil





**U.S. Army Fort George G. Meade
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Proposed Plan Comment Form**



July 2012

This comment form is one way you can provide your comments to the Army on its proposed action. Our comment period ends on August 18, 2012, so all forms must be postmarked by that date. Check below which alternative you prefer and add any comments. After completing the form, please fold it, place a stamp on the back, and place it in the mail. Thank you for sharing your views and for your interest in our environmental program.

Alternatives:

- ☐ Alternative 1: Take No Action
☐ Alternative 2: Land Use Controls with Long-Term Monitoring
☐ Alternative 3: Surface and Subsurface Clearance with Land Use Controls and Long-Term

Comments

Optional

Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____ Phone No: _____

Email: _____

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Fold Here

Place
Stamp
Here

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